

Docket No.: NC 83072
Application No.: 09/986,016

Remarks & Arguments:

Advisory Action dated April 16, 2004

The Advisory Action states that "Applicants are requested to cancel" the withdrawn claims. In an effort to obviate the need for an appeal, Applicants hereby comply with the Examiner's request and cancel claims 20-23 and 25-30 which were previously withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to timely file continuing applications to preserve these inventions.

Introductory Remarks

In a telephone conversation with a previous Examiner, Applicants' attorneys elected claims 1-19 with traverse. Applicants strenuously object to the statement in the office action which indicates the election was made "without traverse." This is incorrect, as Applicants made the election with traverse. Applicants respectfully request that the requirement for restriction be made of record with the acknowledgement of Applicants' election with traverse.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action states that Applicants elected claims 1-19 without traverse during a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the Applicants' attorney. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion. The Applicants provisionally elected claims 1-19 with traverse. No written restriction requirement was incorporated into the Office Action.

In accordance with MPEP § 812.01, Applicants respectfully request a written restriction requirement be made of record. The restriction requirement should include the date on which the election was made, the name of the attorney who made the election on the Applicants' behalf, and a complete record of telephone interview. In addition, Applicants request a formal restriction requirement which explains why the Examiner believes a restriction is mandated, identifies each

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group of claims, provides a listing of which claims belong in each group, classifies each group, and briefly describes the subject matter covered by each group.

Claims

Claims 1, 3-6 and 15-19 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is in independent form. Claims 1, 3-6 and 15-19 are allowed. Claims 20-23, 25-28 and 30 currently stand withdrawn from the application and are hereby canceled. Claims 15 and 17 have been amended to correct a typographical error.

Entry of Amendment

Applicants request entry of this amendment as it places the application in condition for allowance by canceling withdrawn claims 20-23 and 25-30, thereby reducing the number of issues for appeal.

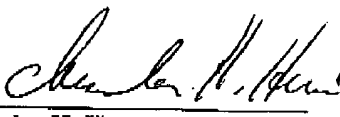
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Conclusion:

Applicants believe that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome and the application is currently in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance be issued on this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached documents are being transmitted by facsimile to 703-872-9306 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 15, 2004


Charles H. Harris